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## **AMPPE's Monthly Membership Newsletter**

### ***Your source for up-to-date information in the Mountain Parks***



Dear Members,

Please mark your calendars! The annual AMPPE AGM will be held on Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at the historic Abegweit House in Banff, located at 136 Bow Avenue. At 4:00 pm members are invited to attend the AGM, followed by a social reception at 5:00 pm. \*Reminder: If you haven't already, please remit renewal payment for 2015 membership in order to have voting abilities at the AGM. If you did not receive your renewal letter please contact our office. We look forward to seeing you there.

Sincerely, *Casey Peirce, Executive Director*

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## **AMPPE Advocacy in Action – Parks Canada infrastructure funding**



Parks Canada is preparing for the influx of \$2.8B in new funding expected April 1<sup>st</sup>. The cash injection will be dedicated to upgrading existing infrastructure in National Parks across Canada. Projects will be assessed and upgraded based on a priority system according to 1. Public Safety (ie: road works), 2. Ecological Integrity (ie: wildlife fencing), and 3. Visitor Experience (ie: rest stop maintenance). AMPPE will continue to meet with Parks to both communicate priority projects as relayed by our members, and to provide support as we can to ensure that the much needed improvements to the facilities in our mountain parks are achieved as soon as possible.

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## **Banff receives funding for Legacy Trail connection in town site**



On Feb. 13, the Town of Banff received a \$50,000 grant from the federal government through the National Trails Coalition to construct a 230-meter paved trail along Banff Avenue, connecting the Legacy Trail to the downtown core. Currently the 17-kilometre trail stops abruptly near the Inns of Banff, leaving cyclists and rollerbladers to cross the busy main street. The grant will be put towards the project's \$350,000 price tag, adding to \$6.7 million in federal funding received for the 2010 construction of the trail, and additional funding to repair damage caused by the 2013 flooding event.

[More Details](#)

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## **Blake Richards announces bison funding for Banff National Park**



On Mar. 6, the federal government announced \$6.4 million in funding over the next five years towards bison reintroduction in Banff National Park. Parks Canada will take a phased approach with the first two years of the plan dedicated to testing the required fencing and monitoring pre-fence wildlife movement. In winter of 2017, Parks Canada plans to introduce a small herd of 30 to 50 young Elk Island National Park bison to the area of the Panther and Dormer rivers, in the east-central portion of the park.

[More Details](#)

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## **Jasperites propose new backcountry ski cabin near Miette Pass**



Local skiers Dana Ruddy and Sean Elliot have submitted a proposal to Parks Canada for a new ski cabin in Jasper, identifying the region surrounding the Miette Pass. The area is less accessible than popular destinations in the Maligne Valley but a ski cabin in the area would provide a base for skiers to further explore the northwest region of the park. Jasper's acting field unit superintendent, Alan Fehr, said that Parks is open to the idea of creating backcountry ski opportunities. He pointed out that the area is critical caribou habitat, but that it is not specifically part of the delayed winter access areas.

[More Details](#)

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## **#AlignedWithAMPPE Member Feature – Improvement District No. 9**



AMPPE would like to welcome our newest member, Improvement District No. 9. I.D. 9 is the municipal government entity that administers the areas of Banff National Park outside the boundaries of the Town of Banff. This includes the hamlet of Lake Louise. The resident population within I.D. 9, according to 2012 statistics, was 1,175. I.D. 9 is represented by a Council comprised by Ethan Gorner (CAO), David Schebek (Chair), Rick Werner, Davina Bernard, Ghada Wirth and Alison Brewster.